AF

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/660,208	09/11/2003	Timothy W. Conner	38-21(15678)C	7582

27161 7590 12/02/2005

MONSANTO COMPANY
800 N. LINDBERGH BLVD.
ATTENTION: GAIL P. WUELLNER, IP PARALEGAL, (E2NA)
ST. LOUIS, MO 63167

EXAMINER	
COLLINS, CYNTHIA E	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
1638	

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/660,208	CONNER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Cynthia Collins	1638	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *13 February 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-27* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☒ Claim(s) *1-27* are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-9, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence, wherein said isolated nucleic acid is a hybrid promoter and wherein said isolated nucleic acid further comprises a minimal CaMV promoter, classified in class 536, subclass 24.1, for example.

II. Claims 1-8, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence, wherein said isolated nucleic acid is a hybrid promoter and wherein said isolated nucleic acid further comprises a minimal rice actin promoter, classified in class 536, subclass 24.1, for example.

III. Claims 1-2 and 10-13, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence, wherein said isolated nucleic acid is a promoter, classified in class 536, subclass 24.1, for example.

IV. Claims 14-15, drawn to a cell and plant comprising a DNA construct, classified in class 800, subclass 298, for example.

V. Claims 16-21, drawn to a method of regulating transcription of a DNA sequence comprising operably linking the DNA sequence to a promoter, classified in class 435, subclass 91.4, for example.

VI. Claims 16 and 22, drawn to a method of regulating transcription of a DNA sequence comprising operably linking the DNA sequence to a minimal promoter, classified in class 435, subclass 91.4, for example.

VII. Claim 23, drawn to a method of making a transgenic plant, classified in class 800, subclass 287, for example.

VIII. Claim 24, drawn to a method of isolating at least two 5' regulatory sequences, classified in class 435, subclass 6, for example.

For inventions I-VII above, restriction to a single sequence is also required under 35 USC 121. Therefore, upon election of any of inventions I-VII, a single sequence must also be elected.

Applicants are reminded that different nucleotide sequences are structurally distinct chemical compounds and are unrelated to one another. These sequences are thus deemed to normally constitute **independent and distinct** inventions within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 121. Absent evidence to the contrary, each such nucleotide sequence is presumed to represent an independent and distinct invention, subject to a restriction requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 CFR 1.141 et seq. This requirement is not to be construed as a requirement for an election of species, since each nucleotide sequence is not a member of a single genus of invention, but constitutes an independent and patentably distinct invention.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Claims 1-2 link(s) inventions I-III. Claim 16 link(s) inventions V-VI. The restriction requirement among the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), claims 1-2 and 16. Upon the allowance of the linking claim(s), the restriction requirement as to

the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claim(s) depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be entitled to examination in the instant application. Applicant(s) are advised that if any such claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) is/are presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims of the continuation or divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Invention I and inventions II-IV and VII-VIII are distinct inventions. The isolated nucleic acid of invention I differs structurally from the isolated nucleic acids of inventions II and III. The isolated nucleic acid of invention I is classified differently from, and differs in structure, function and use from, the cell and transgenic plant of invention IV. The isolated nucleic acid of invention I is classified differently from, and is not used in or produced by, the methods of inventions VII-VIII.

Inventions I and V-VI are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the isolated nucleic acid of invention I can be used in a materially different process of using that product, such as a Southern hybridization method.

Invention II and inventions III-IV and VII-VIII are distinct inventions. The isolated nucleic acid of invention II differs structurally from the isolated nucleic acid of invention III. The isolated nucleic acid of invention II is classified differently from, and differs in structure, function and use from, the cell and transgenic plant of invention IV. The isolated nucleic acid of invention II is classified differently from, and is not used in or produced by, the methods of inventions VII-VIII.

Inventions II and V-VI are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the isolated nucleic acid of invention II can be used in a materially different process of using that product, such as a Southern hybridization method.

Invention III and inventions IV and VII-VIII are distinct inventions. The isolated nucleic acid of invention III is classified differently from, and differs in structure, function and use from, the cell and transgenic plant of invention IV. The isolated nucleic acid of invention III is classified differently from, and is not used in or produced by, the methods of inventions VII-VIII.

Inventions III and V-VI are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP

§ 806.05(h)). In the instant case the isolated nucleic acid of invention III can be used in a materially different process of using that product, such as a Southern hybridization method.

Invention IV and inventions V-VI and VIII are distinct inventions. The cell and plant of invention IV are classified differently from, and are not used in or produced by, the methods of inventions V-VI and VIII

Inventions VII and IV are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the transgenic plant can be made by another and materially different process, such as by transgenic breeding.

Invention V and inventions VI-VIII are distinct inventions. The method of invention V utilizes different materials than the method of invention VI. The method of invention V is classified differently from, and utilizes different materials and different method steps than, the methods of inventions VII-VIII.

Invention VI and inventions VII-VIII are distinct inventions. The method of invention VI is classified differently from, and utilizes different materials and different method steps than, the methods of inventions VII-VIII.

Invention VII and invention VIII are distinct inventions. The method of invention VII is classified differently from, and utilizes different materials and different method steps than, the method of invention VIII.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, their recognized divergent subject matter, and the requirement for different areas of search, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. **Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product** will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai, In re Brouwer* and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b)," 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to

retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.**

Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cynthia Collins whose telephone number is (571) 272-0794. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:45 AM -5:15 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anne Marie Grunberg can be reached on (571) 272-0975. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cynthia Collins
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1638

CC

Cynthia Collins
11/22/05